

TO THE

LADY WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY.

DEAR LADY WILLOUGHBY,

INDEBTED to your kindness for the MS. from which the following volume is printed, I cannot withstand the inclination to inscribe it with your name ; and the more especially as it affords me an opportunity to state how much the task of editing has been rendered a pleasure by grateful recollections of the beautiful country perilled and lost by your ancestors in what they deemed a sacred cause, and justly and happily restored to their descendants. That your ladyship and your children's children, to the latest posterity, may continue to enjoy this noble possession is not mine alone, but the fervent and heartfelt wish of all who have had the good fortune to partake of the refined hospitalities of Drummond Castle ; and, whilst delighting in its social and intellectual intercourse, to revel in those glorious Highland sports which,

with health and excitement in their train, give a zest to life it would be difficult to surpass within the sphere of humanity.

Deeply are my thanks due for receptions of this kind, never more powerfully to be felt than, when relieving literary labours, they seemed as if, in the words of Shakespeare, they would make "nature immortal." Will you, dear Lady Willoughby, accept them from the heart of your ladyship's obliged and faithful servant,

W. JERDAN.